

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May 17, 2000

Mr. James Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20433-0001

Dear Mr. Wolfensohn:

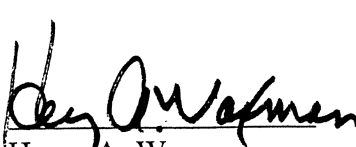
We understand that you are currently reviewing a proposal before the World Bank to transfer \$230 million in loans to Iran. We write to ask you to reconsider this investment under the present circumstances. We believe it is inappropriate to deliberate the loans while the staged trial of the thirteen Iranian Jews continues. It would send a dangerous message that the international community disregards the Iranian government's serious human rights violations against its citizens.

As you know, these defendants were arbitrarily arrested by Iranian authorities just before Passover last year and accused of spying. The group, which includes the Chief Rabbi of Shiraz, teachers, and students, was detained without formal charges and all but three were denied bail. Most distressingly, the case has been tried before the Revolutionary Court, which over the duration of the trial has disappointingly lived up to its criticism by human rights groups for a record of closed-door proceedings, forced confessions, and political abuse. The judge in the case is also serving as the prosecutor and even the defense lawyers were appointed by the court.

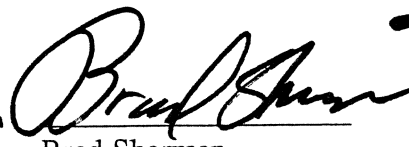
We understand that the United States is not alone in opposing the consideration of these loans at this time. We believe that the World Bank's postponement will be able to bring tremendous pressure on Iran to hold a fair trial and could help prevent a travesty of justice against these individuals.

We appreciate your attention to our concern about this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



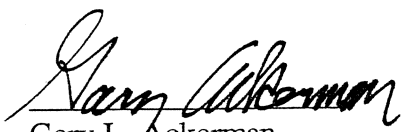
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

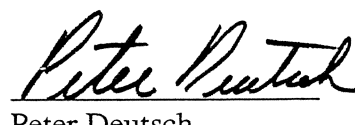


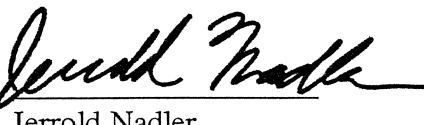
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

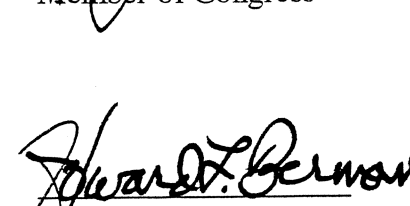


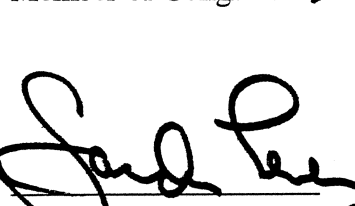
Tom Lantos
Member of Congress


Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

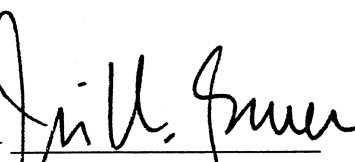

Sam Giedjenson
Member of Congress

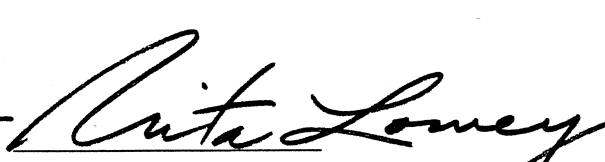

Robert I. Wexler
Member of Congress

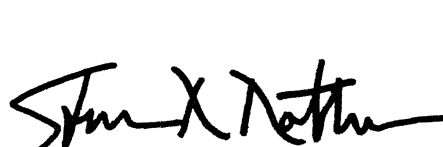

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Ron Klink
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

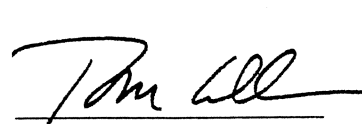

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Steve Horn
Member of Congress


[redacted]
Member of Congress


Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress

Neil Abernethy

Member of Congress

Christy Flanagan

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

James H. Buckley

Member of Congress

James P. Moran

Member of Congress

Rahm Emanuel

Member of Congress

Jane Evans

Member of Congress

Ben Gilman

Member of Congress

Edith L. Engel

Member of Congress